



Thomas Sunday [Reader Service](#)

Calendar and Announcements

Calendar:

- The following services will be prayed, with clergy, servers, and chanters only. Please do not come to the church building for these services. **Also, please note that this schedule is subject to change:**
 - Wednesday 4/22 – Liturgy for St. George, 6pm
 - Sunday 4/26 – Orthros and Liturgy, 9:30am
 - Sunday 5/3 – Orthros and Liturgy, 9:30am
- The above services will be livestreamed via St. George's [website](#) and [official Facebook page](#).

Announcements:

- Based on Metropolitan JOSEPH'S latest encyclical (dated 3/17/2020), all non-liturgical events are **cancelled**.
- For the time being, the church building remains closed and appointments for confession and communion are suspended.
- Dn. Joseph is leading Akathist on Tuesday evenings via Skype. To participate, please email Dn. Joseph at dnjosephclark@gmail.com to receive the link.
- The Ministry Team is organizing small group (less than 10 people) Typika services that meet in local parks. If interested in attending, please contact Ed Donahue at Edjdonahue@gmail.com.
- Several members of the ministry team will be contacting parishioners to identify any special needs and to ensure our church family is taken care of during this time. If you or someone you know has a particular need during this time, please contact the church office so we can coordinate with the ministry team.
- Fr. Joel will be leading a Bible study on the Gospel of John. It will be held every other Wednesday via Zoom. Additional information will be forthcoming.
- Pascha Projects:
 - If you would like to participate in a St. George parish video, please record a ~30 second video of you and your family saying "Christ Is Risen" (or similar) and email it to cynthiajunelong@gmail.com by Sunday, April 26, and we will assemble all the clips into a video so we may greet one another this socially-distant Paschal season.
 - Antiochian Women of the East requests your Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha photos: "Please share with us your memories and any pictures you may have taken of how your families are celebrating this year under these unique situations, i.e. your icon corners, participating in the services via Livestream or ZOOM Video. We would like to share and highlight our Antiochian Women and their church communities on our Web Site and tag us on our Facebook Page." Please email any pictures to Cynthiajunelong@gmail.com by April 26.

General notes:

- If you are able to still tithe / contribute to the church during this time, please consider giving online [via PayPal on the church's website](#).
- All communication about services and other updates during this time will be sent via parish email from Fr. Joel (or the office) or posted on the [website](#) or [official church Facebook page](#). All questions can be directed to the office (office@saintgeorgeupperdarby.org).

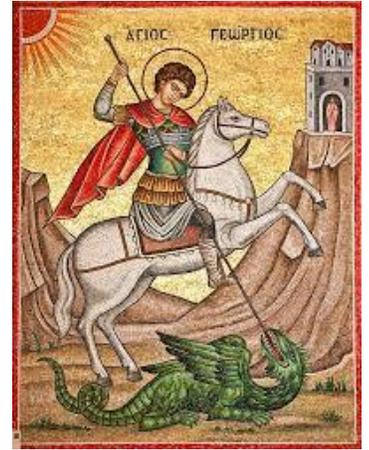
Troparion of St. George

O liberator and deliverer of captives, helper of the poor and needy, a healing physician of the sick, a contender for kings, O great among Martyrs, the victory-clad George; intercede with Christ our God for the salvation of our souls.

St. George (April 23)

George, this truly great and glorious Martyr of Christ, was born of a father from Cappadocia and a mother from Palestine. Being a military tribune, or chiliarch (that is, a commander of a thousand troops), he was illustrious in battle and highly honoured for his courage. When he learned that the Emperor Diocletian was preparing a persecution of the Christians, Saint George presented himself publicly before the Emperor and denounced him. When threats and promises could not move him from his steadfast confession, he was put to unheard-of tortures, which he endured with great bravery, overcoming them by his faith and love towards Christ. By the wondrous signs that took place in his contest, he guided many to the knowledge of the truth, including Queen Alexandra, wife of Diocletian, and was finally beheaded in 296 in Nicomedia.

His sacred remains were taken by his servant from Nicomedia to Palestine, to a town called Lydda, the homeland of his mother, and then were finally transferred to the church which was raised up in his name. [Read more about St. George here.](#)



Church History

This week we continue a series on the Essentials of Faith. The hope is that we can all learn and be edified, and come to a “knowledge of the Truth” (1 Tim. 2:4), and to witness to the things of faith that were “delivered to the saints” (Jud. 1:3) in the Church, which is the “pillar and ground of Truth”. (1 Tim. 3:15) May God bless the labor. These lessons are taken from Fr. Thomas Hopko’s series The Orthodox Faith.

The West

The West in the 14th century saw the “Babylonian Captivity” of the Papacy in Avignon, France (1309–1377), when the Papacy became virtually subject to the kings of France. Then, in the very next year after the return of the Papacy to Rome, the “Great Papal Schism” began, with two rivals claiming to be the legitimate Pope. And from 1409 to 1414 there were three rivals all claiming to be the true Pope. These humiliating developments helped lead to the rise of the Conciliar Movement, which became a powerful force in the Western Church in the next century.

Catherine of Sienna (c. 1347–1380), a remarkable Italian mystic, theologian, and advisor to Pope Gregory XI (r. 1370–1378), lived in the 14th century, as did John Wycliffe (c. 1330–1384), the forerunner of the Protestant Reformation in England. Other important mystical writers of this century were Walter Hilton (c. 1343–1396), Julian of Norwich (c. 1342–after 1416), and the anonymous author of *The Cloud of Unknowing*, all of whom were English.

In Holland, Geert Groote (1340–1384) founded the popular and influential group of “secular” (i.e., non-monastic) priests and laity called the Brethren of the Common Life. This movement was part of a general revival and deepening of the spiritual life called the *Devotio Moderna* (Modern Devotion). The Dutch mystical writer Jan van Ruysbroeck (1293–1381) was probably the greatest representative of this movement in the 14th century. Emphasizing as it did the importance of Christian community, heartfelt devotion to Christ, and theological writing in the vernacular, as well as

Wisdom of the Holy Fathers

"Prayer is the place of refuge for every worry, a foundation for cheerfulness, a source of constant happiness, a protection against sadness."

~ Saint John Chrysostom

criticizing various abuses in the Church life of the time, this movement can be seen as a precursor to the Protestant Reformation.

Dante Alighieri (1265–1321) completed his timeless masterpiece *The Divine Comedy* in the last years of his life. Also in the early part of the 14th century, the famous painter Giotto (c. 1267–1337) began the revolutionary devolvement of religious art in the West away from traditional Byzantine iconographic patterns and towards a more humanistic, naturalistic realism that remained prominent in Western religious art until the 20th century.

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church

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